



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KC MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DEFRAUDING ROCKHURST UNIVERSITY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City man pleaded guilty today to defrauding Rockhurst University by inflating invoices and billing the school for work that was not done.

Marvin Rogers, 55, of Kansas City, Mo., waived his right to a grand jury indictment and pleaded guilty this morning before U.S. District Chief Judge Dean Whipple to a federal information that charges him with devising a scheme to defraud Rockhurst University by use of interstate wire communications. Rockhurst is a Jesuit university at 1100 Rockhurst Road, Kansas City, Mo.

According to Graves, **Rogers** was the owner of Commercial & Industrial Coating. **Rogers** admitted that Commercial & Industrial Coating submitted invoices to Rockhurst University charging more than the value of the work performed, and charging Rockhurst for projects that were never performed. Those invoices, Graves explained, were sent from February 1996 to October 2000, at the direction of the former Director of Physical Plant for Rockhurst University, who is no longer employed by the school.

As part of the scheme to defraud Rockhurst, Graves said, **Rogers** paid the former director for his approval of the inflated and fictitious invoices.

By pleading guilty, **Rogers** admitted that he transmitted a facsimile invoice from Commercial & Industrial Coating to Rockhurst University on July 27, 2002. That invoice, Graves said, charged the school \$4,686 for work that was never performed by **Rogers'** company. Although not part of the charge contained in the federal information, the plea agreement stated that the loss to Rockhurst as a result of the wire fraud was greater than \$120,000.

(MORE)

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As a result of his plea agreement, **Rogers** may be subject to a sentence ranging from one year to one year and six months in prison without parole, according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines, and be required to pay restitution to Rockhurst University. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled sometime after the completion of a presentence investigation by the U.S. Probation Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation, the Department of Labor Inspector General, and the Defense Criminal Investigative Service.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow
